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The Administration's Mexican Policy, or Lack of One.

Our neighbor "The World" says it hopes that it does The Tribune no wrong in assuming that it favors war with Mexico. On the contrary, it does The Tribune a great wrong in making that assumption. It is precisely because The Tribune dreads war with Mexico that it is dissatisfied with President Wilson's handling of the Mexican problem.

We know of nothing so calculated to bring about hostilities as to keep two nations for months always contemplating the possibility of hostilities. And this is especially true when one of the nations is as hot-headed as our Latin-American neighbor and is under the control of so desperate a man as General Huerta. The idea of war is made familiar in this way and soon loses its horrors.

President Wilson's policy with regard to Mexico, if he has one worthy of a name, has done and will continue to do just this. It will keep us always thinking that intervention may, after all, become necessary in the end. And it will keep Mexico always guessing whether we mean to intervene or are too cowardly to intervene. It will keep both countries constantly entertaining the idea of war, reluctantly, perhaps, but nevertheless entertaining it.

That is a dangerous situation. It is one which the administration should have entered upon only with its eyes open and after counting the whole possible cost.

And nothing in the methods of the administration or its character assures that the situation which it has created was inevitable. We are not reassured by the sight of Mr. Wilson's agents and advisers. We are not reassured by the part which mere magazine writers play in adjusting the delicate diplomatic relations between this country and its southern neighbor.

We wish to speak with the utmost respect of the President. We know that his intentions are benevolent. We know that his problem is most difficult. But we do not believe that he is well advised and there is no indication that he has a workable policy. The discussion of Mexican relations has brought forth most extraordinary suggestions, apparently from administration circles. They all tend to show the prevailing impracticality.

Who ever heard of that fantastic contradiction in terms "a peaceful blockade" until the Secretary of State put his mind to work upon the Mexican problem? Who ever heard of "moral suasion" as a compelling force in the field of international relations, a field in which even law is imperfectly binding, until the administration addressed itself to this problem? "Moral suasion" is a noble idealistic conception, but will it work?

There was idealism but there was also practical hard sense in the nation's refusing to recognize a bloody usurper's rule in Mexico. The United States could not afford to encourage revolutionists in tempestuous South American countries to expect recognition at its hands. It could not if it wished peace in this hemisphere.

It was, moreover, quite within its rights, moral and legal, in refusing recognition, but what the administration did further we feel to have been largely ill considered and generally without warrant. Semi-official utterances to the effect that "Huerta must go," repeated at frequent intervals, were calculated only to provoke Mexico needlessly and to put this country into a difficult and humiliating position if Huerta declined to go. Difficult and humiliating positions are full of grave possibilities for self-respecting peoples.

We hope that we do no injustice to the administration. And if we do none no good can come from glozing over the facts and calling benevolent impracticality, as "The World" calls it, wisdom. No harm can come from looking the truth in the face. If war comes it will come from drifting into it with eyes shut.

The Atlantic Coast Inland Waterway.

There are few conceivable public works in this country of more real importance than the inland waterway along the Atlantic Coast, which the present convention at Jacksonville is striving to promote. The route would touch four ports which collect 80 per cent of the customs revenues of the United States and would directly serve 40 per cent of the population, 50 per cent of the industrial population and 53 per cent of the manufactures of the nation.

All parts of the route are designed with a view to linking harmoniously with all others. It will of course serve local purposes, but it will also be an unbroken whole from New England to the Gulf, and all other considerations have been subordinated to that. In its increase of speed and inexpensive transportation through the most densely populated parts of the country it should have a material effect upon the cost of living.

It is to be assumed that there will be no material opposition to the plan by the railroad interests

on the ground of rivalry. How mistaken that ground would be may be seen from actual results in other lands. In France, Belgium and Germany there has been a great development of inland water transportation, chiefly parallel with the railroads. In France in twenty years the water tonnage has increased 73 per cent and the rail tonnage at the same time 84 per cent. In Belgium the figures have been 114 per cent for water and 61 for rail, and in Germany 274 for water and 194 for rail.

The creation of the proposed Atlantic Coast waterway might therefore be confidently expected to do the railroads no harm and to do the people great good.

Directors' Profits.

For the directors of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad to have taken the millions which they made out of it directly from its till would have been robbery. Voting that money out of the till into their own pockets accomplished the same purpose, but the law has no name for the act. The law probably will never have a name for it. The law is not very clever at naming acts like that, and when it attempts to do so the act is always changed in some minor particular and then the courts say that the law has missed again.

Public opinion will have to give a name to the sale by directors of a company of their own property to it at a large profit, and it will have to be a hard name that will damn the man upon whom it is fastened. And in these days of investigations who that indulges in the practices of the Frisco directors may expect to have his discredit remain concealed?

Such acts as theirs wreck railroads, impoverish stockholders, shake confidence in American business honor and arouse hostility to legitimate property interests.

New York's Dirty Streets.

"Big Bill" Edwards will no doubt disagree with Mr. Healy, an alderman of Chicago, who says of conditions in New York: "Why, your streets aren't as clean as ours, and many consider ours a joke in this particular."

The rest of us, however, are rather inclined to take Mr. Healy's word for it. In spite of the clear skies above him, of the moderately frequent rains and of the industry of "Big Bills" "White Wings," busy old Father Knickerbocker invariably needs a scrubbing.

There is room for improvement in the Street Cleaning Department; there is in every human agency. But we cannot help thinking that as street cleaning departments go it has at least an average efficiency. A weightier reason exists for this perennial display of torn newspapers and banana skins, this clattering of thoroughfares with pushcarts and street stands. It is that New York lives in its streets more than does any other American city and probably more than do most cities this side of Asia. Congestion of population is the cause of this; it is the explanation of everything of which the Chicago alderman complained on the lower East Side. Chicago has not this degree of congestion, for which it may thank its stars rather than its foresight.

But until New York can solve this problem of congestion its efforts to keep clean, if they are to succeed, must be correspondingly greater than those of any of its neighbors.

Fair Play for the Railroads.

The railroads which are asking permission to make a 5 per cent increase in freight rates have a strong *prima facie* claim on the government's consideration. At the instance of the government and in compliance with the federal mediation law most of the roads have recently entered into wage arbitrations with their employees and have been obliged to meet substantial increases in wages awarded by boards of mediation.

The government, which represents the general public, has been saying to the railroads: "You must keep on increasing your cost of maintenance." Every year there is a new demand for higher wages, and the government has just greatly enlarged the machinery for conducting arbitrations, in which, whatever compromise may be reached, the railroads are always the loser. But when the railroads have suggested that an increased maintenance cost should be met by increased freight rates the Interstate Commerce Commission has assumed a wait-while-and-see-what-will-turn-up attitude and no thought has been given to devising additional machinery for distributing between the roads and the public the cost of higher wages, better facilities and increased safety in railroading.

There is no fair play in such a policy. Every new liability should not be added to the railroad side of the ledger. Most railroads are working hard now to make ends meet. If the government uses moral suasion to induce them to enlarge their outlay it ought to permit them to charge more for a better and more costly service.

The New Football Vindicated.

Football came back to its own in Saturday's Harvard-Yale game. The new style of play brilliantly vindicated itself against the reproach that the opening up of the attack had resulted in little or no increase of scoring power and had left the defence still with the upper hand whenever two teams of fairly equal strength fought it out on what are recognized as the fundamentals of football. The Harvard-Princeton and Princeton-Yale games seemed to demonstrate that the changes made in the rules after the season of 1911 had not really loosened the "scoring punch." Harvard made one drop goal against Princeton and Princeton and Yale made one each against the other. Beyond that there were few moments in those two contests when the attack was not held steadily under by the defence.

But at Cambridge on Saturday the Harvard team was able to do against Yale on a dry turf what it had not been able to do against Princeton on a waterlogged field. The Crimson attack was almost as sustained and sweeping as the onslaught used to be under the old five-yards-to-a-first-down limit. It carried the ball half the length of the field or more to a point at which the Brickley drop could be called upon to register a certain score. Yet had no such easy substitute for the touchdown been available there is little doubt that the Harvard assault would have gone further and would have worn down the Yale defence for at least one touchdown. Yale, too, had flashes of energy in which the ball was run continuously nearly half the length of the field. Harvard made 11 first downs and Yale 7, so that there was again in evidence a real running game of genuine power and consistency.

It is nothing against such a running attack that it was used on Saturday merely to bring the ball to within easy drop-kicking distance of the goal posts. It can be pushed across the line, if need be, and it is just that assurance of the possibility

of scoring old-fashioned touchdowns which the game, as played by the big teams, has lacked for four or five seasons past and which many had begun to despair of ever again feeling under the present playing system. An entirely new zest will be added to the game by the evidence given this year that first class teams playing straight football can score freely without depending on blocked kicks, muffed punts, fumbles back of the line and other accidents.

Mr. Brickley could probably kick a field goal even with a John Doe "dough bag."

The Yellow Taxicab Company is still fighting. Misnamed, obviously.

Lloyd George says that the militants have killed suffrage. It must have been a violent death.

James K. McGuire, of Syracuse, seems destined to be classed among the country's ablest and most painstaking "accelerators."

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A fisherman, after the manner of his kind, was an habitual exaggerator as to the weight of his catch. His family, growing tired of his yarns, made him purchase scales and weigh each fish in their presence. Even with the innovation the funny creatures which were caught by him continued to be record breakers. In course of time he became a proud father, and the assembled relatives were anxious to learn the weight of the newly arrived infant. Against his protest the fish scales were brought out and the child was placed on them. The baby weighed thirty-five pounds.

They were assigning Hercules all sorts of difficult jobs, which he performed without a murmur. "Next you can be a parcels post carrier during the holiday season." This was the only time Hercules ever balked.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HURRAH FOR PROHIBITION!

They're getting it in Maine!
A very real condition,
No theory, 'tis plain.
The gentlemen of Portland,
With their club lockers filled,
Long voted Prohibition:
"This rum curse must be killed!"
And while the sheriffs raided
The drug stores through the state,
The club men drank their cocktails
In quiet joy sedate.
But now the pinch has shifted:
The high-toned clubs no more
May shelter choicest liquors
Behind each locker's door;
And statesmen, lawyers, doctors,
And wealthy gentlemen,
Like common folk, thirst vainly
For cocktails now and then,
Hurrah for Prohibition!
They're getting it in Maine!
This truly real condition—
How long will it obtain? W. A. H.

The Man in the Chair—Have you seen that poor Bobby Blank has been run over by a car and killed? "Willie—I'm not surprised, d'you know; he wasn't looking at all fit when I saw him the other day."—Sketch.

Off with the old and on with the older is the new Sprakers version since But Quackenbush has qualified as postmaster of that ancient village. "Away back, before the war," said a man from that place, "David Quackenbush was postmaster, and served faithfully until Abraham Lincoln, in the early part of his first term, appointed Henry Cohen. The postoffice remained in the Cohen street, with father, widow and sons as Uncle Sam's representatives, until last week, when the son of the original postmaster succeeded to the coveted position. Where is Sprakers? On the Mohawk River, on the Erie Canal, on the West Shore Railroad and three minutes by rope ferry—established over a hundred years ago and still doing business—from the main line of the New York Central road. Sixty years ago we had about two hundred inhabitants and now, thanks to our fine geographical situation, we have nearly four hundred."

"What makes you so anxious to send 'Three-finger Sam' to the Legislature. He isn't so very popular." "We citizens of Crimson Gulch figured that it would be a great savin' to the general community to get a poker player like Sam located somewhere else."—Washington Star.



WILSON—The way of the idealist is hard in Mexico.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

A NATIONAL GUARD HANDICAP

Some Regiments Too Expensive to Join, Says Militiaman.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In relation to your article on the deficiency in numbers of the various arms of the militia, I beg leave to state that if the commanding officers of organizations such as the 1st Cavalry, Signal Corps, etc., would open their regiments to all men who can qualify to make good citizen soldiers and are willing and anxious to serve as part of the armed force of their state we would have a larger national guard.

Upon application to a certain corporal of the national guard the writer was informed that to join said organization he would be required to pay an initiation fee of \$10, to purchase a special full dress uniform and equipment at a cost of \$50, and that the yearly dues for the privilege of being a member and sacrificing his time and holding himself in readiness to serve his country at a moment's notice would be \$20. In other outfits this tax on the men is higher.

Good men are being refused, because their services as volunteers are not wanted—they must pay exorbitant fees to serve.

Remedy this condition of affairs and New York State and every other state in the Union will have a full national guard. NATIONAL GUARDSMAN.
New York, Nov. 19, 1913.

THE TRUE THANKSGIVING DAY

Correspondent Protests Against the Clownishness That Mars It Here.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Thanksgiving Day is near—a feast observed by patriotic Americans in commemoration of one of the foundation acts of our national life as it stands today. What was that act? When the Puritans, in what is now Massachusetts, set aside a day for thanksgiving and praise to the Eternal Help of the World for the bounty of the first harvest in their new home in the year 1621.

Thanksgiving Day is a day of religious sentiment, a cult bound up with the principles of liberty in our national life. The principles of liberty in our national life are the principles of the Puritan commonwealth. Through the usage of generations of builders of American liberty, through the proclamation at Washington by the President of our federated states, Thanksgiving is a national wide day of joy and rest, and a peculiar day of renewal of race traditions and of family reunion. It is our own American way of giving thanks for unparalleled blessings—a day of dignity and delight. But here in New York what greets us on this great feast? For many years I have been making notes. In this town, and in this, I believe, alone, maskers in silly, fantastic and often disgusting costume parade, struggle along and clog the sidewalks. They are oftentimes children, who waylay the passerby with petitions for money, and make the crisp November air hideous with tooting horns, beating pans and yells. At times adults are the nummers. Two years ago this Thanksgiving, on walking down Central Park West to a late dinner, I saw bands of grown boys and men, clothed in the externals of women's garb, roaring and tooting in a general saturnalia.

Perhaps in the saturnalia is where the masking and begging and pandemoniac noise had its real origin—in feasts of our ancestors thousands of years ago, when the folk made merry to strengthen the lord of growth for the coming year, as well as express joy in the harvest of the time. But what a descent, what loss to the meaning of our Thanksgiving Day! Such mummery and foolishness should be kept till after the sun has turned his course—till after December 22.

But whatever its origin, here is amid us a perversion of the meaning of a great day; to thousands of little undeveloped minds a total loss of its significance; and the little undeveloped minds of to-day will in the near future be the adult minds. I am writing to ask if your paper will not speak out in an endeavor to

create a public sentiment that will stop the silly, mindless smirching of a national solemnity.

To eliminate the saturnalia features would not take from any little kid his rights. The kiddies had their time in disguises to avert witches and goblins and every sort of evil spirit in the time-honored race-joy of Halloween. Their opportunity will come again at the great man and nature feasts of Christmas and New Year's. Then why should they despoil of its right spirit the national festival falling midway between? What can The Tribune do to educate them to better ways? KATE STEPHENS.
New York, Nov. 22, 1913.

WRONG TO ANTAGONIZE HUERTA

But Correspondent Suggests Plan Involving Intervention and Fair Elections.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I think the desire of the United States to help Mexico by insuring her a fair election by supervising it, at the same time disclaiming any desire or intention to take any of her territory, is right and noble.

But I think a mistake was made at first by approaching acting President Huerta as an enemy, thus making negotiations difficult. And I think the mistake is continued by insisting unnecessarily on his immediate resignation, thus leaving no one at the head of affairs to maintain order—unnecessarily, because the time would be short till President Wilson appointed a temporary governor, or even till the election and installation of the elected officers had taken place.

The raising of the embargo on arms and ammunition and assisting Carranza in his revolution, I think, would be another mistake. It would probably be just like our assistance of Madero against Diaz. If he were successful in reaching Mexico City it would probably be revolution after revolution. Any case of relying on Carranza, or, indeed, on any Mexican at the present time would only be attended with disaster, and it would be a waste of time.

The only right and effectual way is for the United States to oversee and supervise a fair election, and to guarantee the same to Mexico, as we did in the cases of Cuba and Panama. In the latter case by invitation. We took no territory in either case.

But it may be asked, What is to be done now, under the present circumstances? I would answer:

First—Let Huerta continue in his place, either till some temporary governor or successor is appointed, or until a fair election settles the matter and a President, Vice-President and Congress are elected.

Second—Let our marines and other troops, if necessary, enter such parts of Mexico as need them to protect our own and foreign citizens where numbers of them are congregated in towns or at valuable works, mines, etc.

Third—Let our President appoint a temporary governor of Mexico to take charge while we prepare for and supervise a fair election. Acting President Huerta would then resign, the Presidency then to be temporarily vacant.

Fourth—Let our President also appoint a superintendent or supervisor of election, with power.

Fifth—Let the temporary governor or this supervisor immediately call for state conventions by delegates for nomination of Deputies (or representatives) and Senators, and of delegates to a national convention or conventions for nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President.

Sixth—Let the supervisor, with assistants, arrange for and supervise the registration and election and the results.

Seventh—When the elected officers are installed and everything is seen to be in order, let our officers turn over the government to the new officers and depart.

Eighth—The United States should insist, however, by written agreement, that in case of future disorder in Mexico and the inability of the Mexican government to quell it and to maintain order, the United States should have the right to step in and restore it, but merely for the peace and benefit of Mexico, and in no wise for selfish aggrandizement. D. O. JUSTICE.
New York, Nov. 16, 1913.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMAN

Police and Courts Adopting Juster Attitude, a Reader Thinks.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: You had two good editorials in yesterday's Tribune. One was just a bit satirical, to be sure, but then great truths are often impressed upon the public by satire.

The editorial, "Disposing of the Mashers," gives us an idea how fast times are changing and that the world is at last becoming aware of the fact that strict justice must be meted out alike to both sexes. Formerly only women were arrested for speaking to a member of the other sex in the street, but now men, too, are being arrested, and even sentenced by magistrates, for insulting and attacking women on the street. Commissioner Waldo must have received some pretty strenuous prodding from some one "higher up" to bring about such a change in the state of things. So soon are we beginning to see the effects of a Tammany defeat. May this good work go on under the able direction of our District Attorney!

The other editorial, "On Judges and Suffragettes," seems somewhat sympathetic for that "lone arraigning policeman" in the presence of the opposing counsel in the "blue serge suit with white facings," etc. Again, do I note the change of the times, for well do I remember the time, not long ago, either, when it was "a lone girl" many a time who stood before the magistrates and received the severest sentences the law would allow, just on the word of "a lone policeman."

The beautifully dressed women standing near a poor girl seem always to have a mere powerful effect than anything else to secure justice for a girl, and I am glad to see our rich and influential women coming downtown to stand by their "little sisters" among the poor. We are told by the anti-suffragists that men are our protectors and will protect us. It isn't true, for there are not enough men who either try or care to protect women—most men only protect their own family and immediate friends, while the working girl, the orphan, the unprotected, are left to the mercy of the libertines and "white slave" dealers. It is to their own sex that girls must look for protection—their own sex aided by the few—all too few—men who believe that women as well as themselves are human and have equal rights.

Along this line, as along all others, the man who talks so much is the man least to be depended upon. The man who really wants to be a protector of women does not cry from the house-tops about "the superiority of women," "women should be sheltered in the home," "the sanctity of the home," and all such hypocritical trash, but he gets down to work and helps them to a condition where they can in large part protect themselves. He has no small fears that if he allows them a little chance to be something and do something they will become his successful rivals. He isn't built that way.

A TRIBUNE READER.
New York, Nov. 20, 1913.

HADLEY AND HOOPER HIS TICKET

Tennessee Suggests Them as Republican Candidates in 1916.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I suggest as the candidates of the national Republican party in 1916: For President, Herbert S. Hadley, of Missouri;

For Vice-President, Ben W. Hooper, of Tennessee.

With a ticket like this the Republican party can win easily. Hadley is known as a true Progressive Republican and Ben W. Hooper is the man who has twice been elected Governor in the Democratic State of Tennessee.

W. A. ANDERSON.
Bell Buckle, Tenn., Nov. 20, 1913.

TUT! TUT! WE'RE REFORMED.

From The Washington Herald.
Mr. Mitchell, the Mayor-elect of New York, says he is going to take the public into his confidence, but what the New York public wants is jobs.